



July 14, 2005

Mr. Alfred W. Speer  
Clerk of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Mr. Glenn Koepp  
Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: House Bill 2 of the 2005 Regular Session  
An Act with respect to the capital outlay budget and the capital outlay program for state government, state institutions and other public entities.

Gentlemen:

As authorized by Article III, Section 18(B) and Article IV, Section 5(G) of the Constitution of Louisiana, I have exercised my right to veto line items or provisions of the 2004 Capital Outlay Appropriations Bill.

**Veto Message No. 1:**

Page 21 Lines 14 through 23

**Jimmie Davis Bridge, LA 511, Planning and Construction (Bossier, Caddo).** This appropriation moves funding from the Shreveport Convention Center project to the Jimmie Davis Bridge project pending the possible outcome of a lawsuit on the Convention Center project. This is a contingent appropriation, which adds funds to the project based on the outcome of a lawsuit that is the subject of Veto Message No. 1 above. For this reason, I am vetoing this amendment.

**Veto Message No. 2:**

Page 55 Lines 25 through 32

**Northeast DeRidder Bypass Loop, Feasibility Study (Beauregard):** The proposed project is currently not included in the state's Long Range Transportation Plan. The cost to implement this project would likely be in the \$50 million to \$60 million range. The Department of Transportation and Development is evaluating a more cost efficient solution to the DeRidder traffic issue. An in-house feasibility study is currently underway on the addition of a center turn lane on LA 27 and US 171. For these reasons, I am vetoing this amendment.

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**Veto Message No. 3:**

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**Convention Center Complex, Planning and Construction (Caddo):** This capital outlay project has been funded and has received a cash and non-cash line of credit for the full amount of the appropriation.

Impact on city's bond payments: The Conference Committee Amendment No. 29 to the Senate Floor Amendment 3417, No. 4 and Senate Floor Amendment 3417, No. 3 could adversely impact the completion and ultimate occupancy of the project thereby jeopardizing the ability of the city of Shreveport to make payments on the bonds sold for the design and construction of this facility. The amendment prohibits the expenditure of state capital outlay dollars on this project until there is a final and non-appealable judgment in the pending lawsuit. The amendment has a sunset of June 30, 2006. If the lawsuit is not resolved expeditiously, the project will not be completed in accordance with the established schedule, which will delay occupancy and the generation of revenues necessary to pay off the bonds. This will potentially cost the citizens of Shreveport local general fund dollars as bond payments will either have to be made or the city will default on the bonds. For these reasons, I am vetoing this amendment.

**Veto Message No. 4:**

Page 126 Line 34 Delete the \$150,000 General Fund Appropriation

**West St. Tammany YMCA, Building, Planning and Construction (St. Tammany):** This is the only YMCA project in the bill that would receive a general fund appropriation. The project has \$200,000 in Priority 2 and \$2,800,000 in Priority 3 for a total remaining appropriation of \$3,000,000 after the veto of the \$150,000 in general fund dollars. The capital outlay request submitted for the project indicated a total request of \$3,000,000. Consequently, the \$3,000,000 appropriation would be a sufficient amount to fund this project along with the \$3,700,000 in matching funds identified in the bill should the Bond Commission give its approval. For this reason, I am vetoing this amendment.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Governor

jw